

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A fractionatable stable double emulsion, having a polydispersity greater than 30%, of the water-in-oil-in-water type, consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion, of droplets of a monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei dispersed in a continuous aqueous phase; the monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei having a polydispersity of up to and including 30%;

- the continuous aqueous phase comprising a ~~polysaccharide~~ an alginate thickening agent at 1 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase; a water-soluble sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide as surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent;

- the emulsion Ei having a viscosity up to and including the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of Ei, of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase;

- the internal aqueous phase comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance;

- the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant; the concentration of balancing agent being sufficient to ensure osmotic balance between the aqueous phase of the emulsion Ei and the continuous aqueous phase.

19. (currently amended) [[A]] The double emulsion according to Claim 18, wherein the double emulsion comprises at least 60% by weight of droplets of emulsion Ei with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion.

20. (currently amended) The double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein the agent for balancing the osmotic pressure is glucose.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) [[A]] The double emulsion according to claim [[21]] 18, wherein the alginate has a molar mass of between 3000 and 6000 g/mol.

23. (currently amended) ~~A double emulsion according to claim 18~~ A fractionatable stable double emulsion, having a polydispersity greater than 30%, of the water-in-oil-in-water type, consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the double emulsion, of droplets of a monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei dispersed in a continuous

aqueous phase; the monodisperse inverse emulsion Ei having a polydispersity of up to and including 30%;

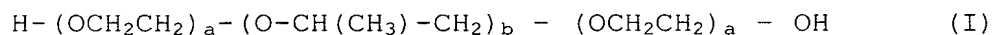
- the continuous aqueous phase comprising an alginate thickening agent at 1 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase; a water-soluble sequenced copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide as surfactant; and an osmotic pressure balancing agent;

- the emulsion Ei having a viscosity up to and including the viscosity of the continuous aqueous phase and consisting of 50 to 95% by weight, with respect to the total weight of Ei, of droplets of an internal aqueous phase dispersed in an oily phase;

- the internal aqueous phase comprising at least one hydrophilic active substance;

- the oily phase comprising polyglycerol polyricinoleate as surfactant; the concentration of balancing agent being sufficient to ensure osmotic balance between the aqueous phase of the emulsion Ei and the continuous aqueous phase,

wherein the formula of the sequenced copolymer is:



in which

a is an integer between 50 and 120; and

b is an integer between 20 and 100, and

wherein the continuous aqueous phase comprises 1 to 5% by weight, with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase, of alginate, as a thickener; and 3 to 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the continuous aqueous phase of the sequenced polymer of said formula (I), as a surfactant.

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) [[A]] The double emulsion according to claim [[24]] 23, wherein the alginate has a molar mass of between 3000 and 6000 g/mol.

26. (currently amended) [[A]] The double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein the continuous aqueous phase comprises glucose as osmotic pressure balancing agent, the molar ratio of the glucose concentration in the continuous aqueous phase to the concentration of active substance in the internal aqueous phase being between 1.5 and 2.5.

27. (currently amended) [[A]] The double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein the oily phase comprises 60 to 99% by weight of polyglycerol polyricinoleate and 1 to 40% by weight dodecane.

28. (currently amended) [[A]] The double emulsion according to claim 18, wherein Ei comprises at least 60% by weight of droplets of internal aqueous phase.

29-37. (cancelled)